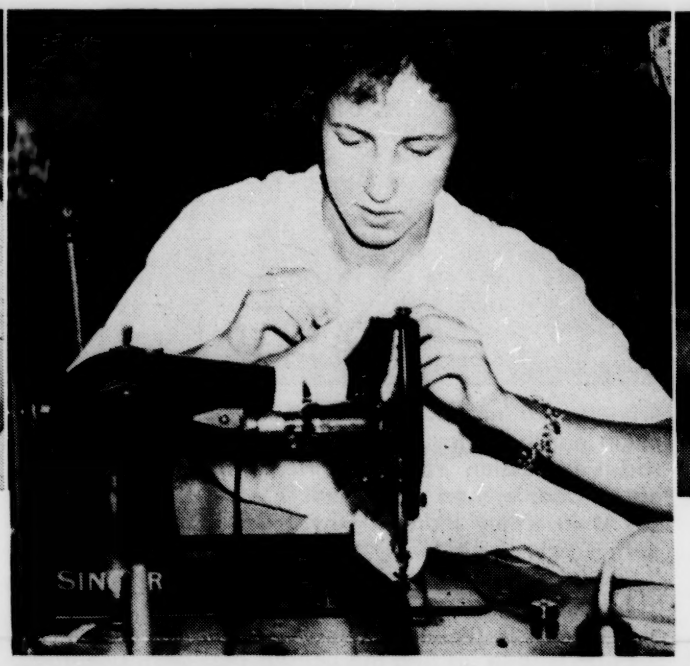
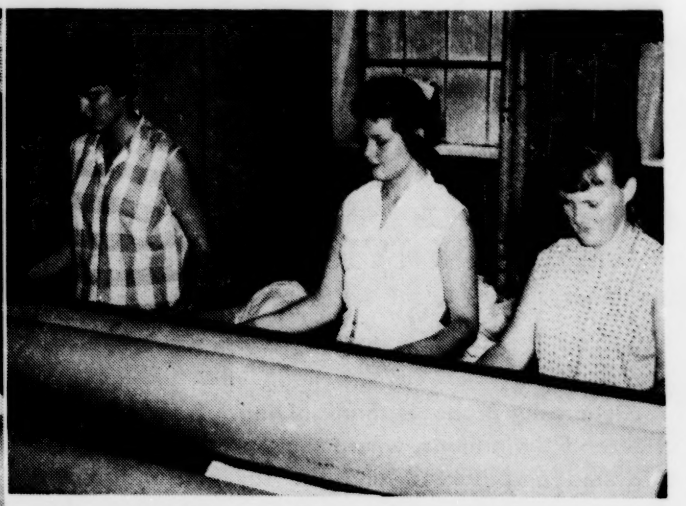
Barium Messenger

VOL. 36 BARIUM SPRINGS, N. C., NOVEMBER 1959 No. 11

THANKSGIVING ISSUE

THE WORK OF THE CHILDREN PLUS THE GIFTS OF THE CHURCHES MAKES THE WHEELS GO ROUND AT BARIUM





The pictures on this page help tell the story of the life at Barium Springs. The daily routine of preparing the meals for the big family requires a tremendous lot of planning and effort. Apple pie is in the process as the girls, assisted by the dietitian, carry on in the kitchen.

The Singer sewing machines hum in the big sewing room. Under the direction of the supervisor, the girls help in making the dresses and doing the sewing for the whole campus. The big ironing machine shows three girls rubbing out the wrinkles of the clothes that have just been washed. It takes a lot of water, soap suds and elbow grease to get the clothes ready for the boys and girls in the fifteen cottages. These pictures are typical of the life that goes on daily. Girls, also, assist in the cottages, serve tables, wash dishes, help in the Infirmary, and wherever something needs to be done.

The girls are not alone in their efforts in maintaining the operation, for the boys, too, are busy. Two are shown in the picture stacking straw to be used in the lounging barn. This year the farm produced 3,000 bales of straw and 15,000 bales of hay. Three big trench silos have been filled, storing over 400 tons of silage for the dairy herd. The center picture shows one of the boys busy with the milking machine. Twice a day, these 45 holstein cows have to be milked and the milk delivered. The Home's milk is traded for the processed milk and returned to the table so that every child can have a quart and a half a day. The care of these animals plus the concern for 100 head of beef cattle and 200 hogs keeps the staff and the students busy. There is a lot of painting and repairing and grass cutting to be done. The boys in the underpass with their paint brushes represent many hours of labor spent on painting the houses and keeping the campus in good trim . Without work to do there is little chance for happiness, but having a share in the program of the Home keeps the boys and girls busy and gives them the feeling of having a part in what is going on.

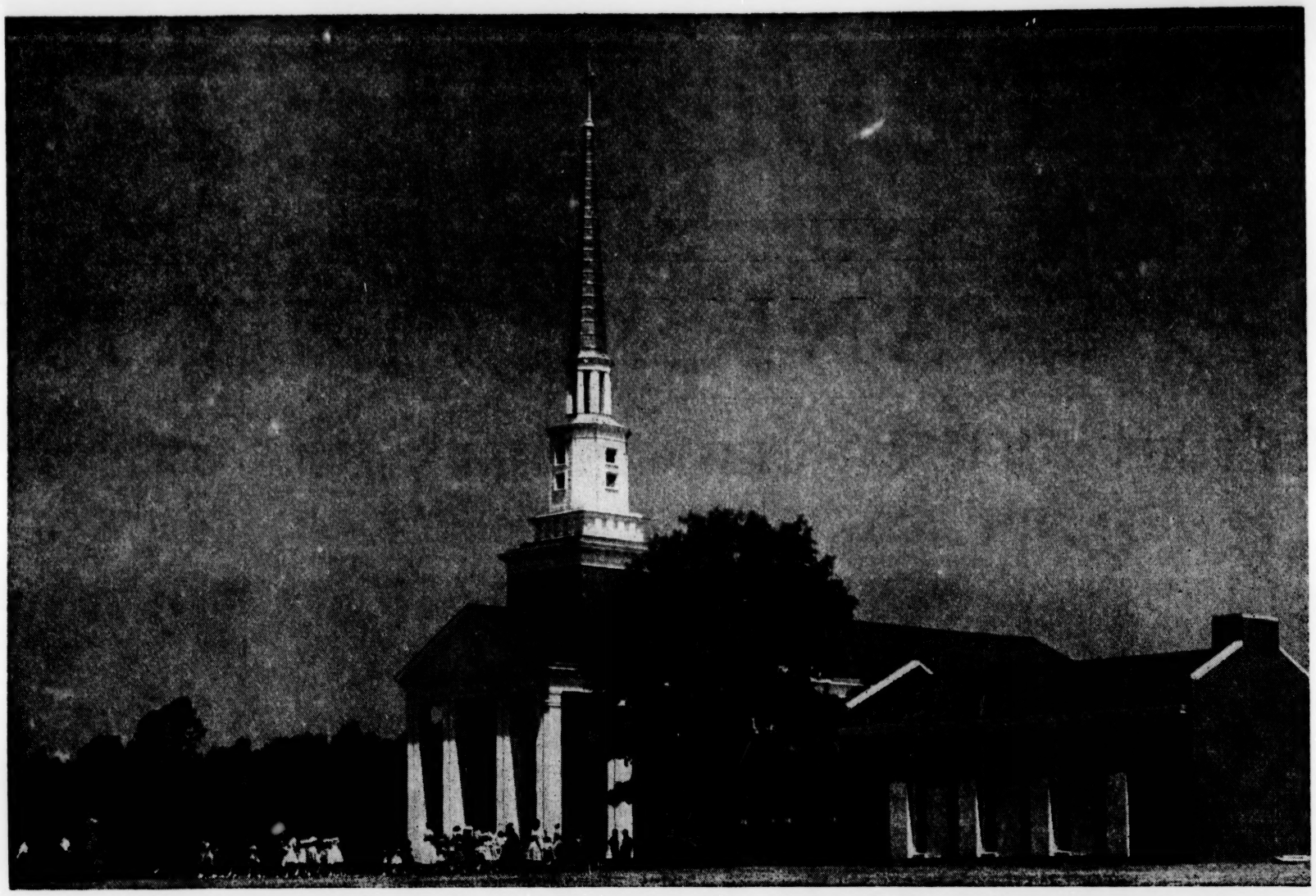
Eighteen hundred bushels of peaches were picked, eaten, frozen, or sold and the 800 apple trees ordinarily produce between 3,000 and 4,000 bushels of apples. The boys and girls of Barium Springs have a job to do and they have certainly been busy at it this summer and fall.

So their labor and the churches love make a Home for those who live at Barium.

UNDER THE STEEPLE

By Rev. Hugh B. Carter, Jr.

THANKSGIVING 1959



Generosity produces thanksgiving. So we are told in Second Corinthians, where the Apostle writes about seed-time and harvest and the far reaching results of sharing. Notice which comes first: generosity, then thanksgiving.

Somewhere I remember reading a story of a beggar who occupied a certain corner near the center of a small European town. He was despised by the entire township because of his nasty disposition. No matter what was tossed into his ragged cap, the ill tempered fellow cursed and swore and sometimes spit upon those who had meant to show him kindness. No matter what people did for him, he always felt that they should have done more. So he and his benefactors never had a kind word for one another.

Finally, a wealthy man adopted the offensive beggar, took him to his magnificent estate nearby, housed him in a pretty little cottage, and provided him with daily meals. Some months later, the townsfolk witnessed a noticeable change in the beggar. They could hardly believe that he was the same man. His facial expression was kind. He was soft spoken. He, of all people, had mellowed!

At last they learned why. Off in the steep hills during one of his lonely wanderings, the beggar had found an injured goat. He had carried the goat back to his cottage to care for it. He had fed the goat from his own table, at times giving it his entire meal. For the first time in his life, the beggar had been generous. For once, he had deprived himself of something in a sacrificial way. His own generosity had given him a thankful heart.

This little story does not illustrate the Scriptural text except to point out that generosity comes ahead of thanksgiving. In the case of the ungrateful beggar, it was his own belated generosity that produced his own belated thanksgiving. The Corinthians on the other hand, were told that their generosity, administered by the Church, would produce thanksgiving in the life of other Christians who, for the time being, were dependent upon the generosity of the more privileged.

All of which is to say that the traditional football games, and roast tom turkey with cranberry sauce, and gatherings of the homefolks, and even the traditional church-going—these ways by which we celebrate and enjoy Thanksgiving Day—do not PRODUCE Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving comes AFTER generous giving.

Long before Governor Bradford of Massachusetts and his colony of Pilgrims made their way to a rough hewn church to give thanks to a gracious God, a man raised this question in the secret place of his own heart: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" (Ps. 116:11) And here is the way that he answered himself: "I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving . . ."

Generosity that is born of sacrifice will produce Thanksgiving for you and me.

A BOY AND THE CASEWORKER

"Could you help us?" asked the minister in a letter. A small boy and his mother had come to the office of the pastor seeking help. She found herself unable to care for the child and turned to the Church for assistance. The minister in turn sent a letter to the Home to see what the possibilities were for entering the child. The Caseworker then answered the call and began the contacts. She found a thin, little fellow, rather tall for his age, and with unusually keen eyes waiting to see what would happen. She told him the story of the big place at Barium Springs with all the boys and girls—how he would be eating in the dining room with several hundred people—living in a cottage with a group of boys and a housemother—as he grew he would have a chance to work on the farm and play football. His eyes got bigger and bigger and he seemed to tug just a little closer to his mother's skirt. The only solution, though, was the big, new home and the little fellow joined the big family to be a part of Barium Springs.

It seemed from the very start he had some inner resource that made him determined to stand on his own and make the group take notice of him. He grew along through the "snaggled tooth and stumped toe" days and on to putting on his football suit to be a part of the junior team. The backfield was his choice. He wanted to carry that ball. When the opposition was takled by this lad, the ball carrier knew he had been hit. That thin frame grew taller. The muscles grew stronger and the mind continued to do its part for the grades from early grammar school were at the top of the class.

The high school found a tall, clean-cut, clear-eyed boy beginning his studies and his varsity athletic program in football and basketball. There was a dream in his mind that some day he might receive an appointment to the Air Force Academy. To that end he would work hard. The body was kept strong through the sports program and the summer work. Extra-curricula activities included the Beta Club, church choir, etc. Girls, too, were a part of the life of this boy, though he seemed a bit reserved in his relationships to them. Through the first three years of his high school course, he and the Caseworker kept in close touch with his mother and, thus, was enabled to keep well adjusted in the life of the Home.

In the spring of 1959, a new window opened in his life. The director of the scholarship program at one of the outstanding eastern schools came to Barium Springs to explore with this boy the possibility of his enrolling in the school. Questionnaires were filled out and examinations, including the national examinations, were taken and all other necessary explorations were made.

Then came the letter from Phillips Exeter Academy addressed to the boy, saying: "You have been awarded an eighteen hundred dollar scholarship for the purpose of attending Phillips Exeter Academy next year." The A's and A$^+$'s had given him a high rating with the administrations committee and the scholarship committee.

Plans had to be made for this new venture. The consent of all people concerned had to be given, the arrangements at the Home had to be made and the preparations for the new life in Exeter had to be undertaken. The Caseworker and the boy worked together to finish all these. During the summer months, this boy now with the same big eyes, with a strong body, with a keen mind, and with a heart given to Jesus Christ was beginning to wonder about his new venture and to see opening up, possibly, the door to his dream of being admitted to the Air Force Academy someday.

Finally, the day came when the shots had all been taken, the papers all filled out and the boy, with his new suitcase packed and ready to go, met the Caseworker. They loaded up in the car and headed for Salisbury. Having prepared a train schedule, the Caseworker put the boy on board in Salisbury to ride the rails to Exeter to the end of his dream.

Not all the days from the first meeting with the Caseworker until the train pulled out of the station were days of success and glory. There were the times of disappointment and discipline. There were the times of concern and counsel. There were the days of natural, normal growing, which always has its heartaches as well as its moments of pleasure; but, all put together, make a wonderful story of success for the small lad entrusted to the care of the Home at Barium Springs. This is the work of the Church. This is the work of the Christ.

THE BARIUM STORY

Seventy-five years ago Barium Springs was a health resort where people came for rest and a drink of mineral water to restore their physical vigor. Today Barium Springs no longer features the water flowing from the spring for those who are crippled in body, but rather a source of healing for boys and girls of the Presbyterian Church who need restoration in body and spirit. The place is home to hundreds of boys and girls every year. This means food, shelter, clothing, dental work, operations, and work and play and worship. It means security where there was none; it means partnership where there are still those who can share in their lives.

The Home is now in its seventh decade, having been established in 1891. Approximately five thousand children have been served by Barium Springs. The present capacity of the Home is 250 children.

Ordinarily, children between the ages of five and twelve enter the Home. If a child is older than twelve, needs to come to Barium Springs, and the Home can meet his needs, admission is offered even to a senior in high school. The boys and girls of the Synod of North Carolina come from the Presbyterian churches or through the Presbyterian churches. The preference of placement is given to Presbyterians and those for whom the Presbyterian Church in the local community is responsible.

What about finances? Do you have to pay? No child is ever accepted or rejected on the basis of his ability to pay or not to pay. The Presbyterians of the Synod of North Carolina through their contributions support the Home; however, each parent or responsible relative who can make any contribution to the Home for the child is required to do so according to his ability.

While the Home becomes the legal custodian, it never becomes the legal guardian. The natural guardian, or the legal guardian appointed by the Court, is someone outside of the Home who is responsible for making decisions in the life of the child. The administration of the Home will make all decisions pertinent to the child while he is in the custody of the Home, but decisions that pertain to his life, other than its relationship to the Home itself, are made jointly by the administration of the Home and the guardian who is responsible for the placement.

The time that a child stays in the Home varies according to his needs. He may be in the institution for one or two years or it may be necessary for him to stay until he has graduated from the high school. An earnest effort is made to keep in close touch with the folks outside the institution and if the way be clear, return the child to his own home or community. In the event that this is not possible, he may continue at Barium Springs until he has finished school, and then through the Educational Fund receive help in continuing his education or training.

What is the greatest need that the Home has? Of course, the greatest need the Home has is for the Presbyterians and those who love it to pray for this place, the boys and girls and the adult leadership. Effective service cannot be rendered to these children unless the total Church remembers this work in prayer. Dealing with the spirits of these children is the most important part of the work. However, you cannot separate the spirit from the body, and it is also necessary to eat food and to wear clothes. This support comes through the Benevolent giving of the Presbyterians and interested friends. The Thanksgiving Offering wherein the Synod asks for $100,000.00 is the main life-line of the Home. The Benevolence percentage given through the Church is the additional portion. These together make up about two-thirds of the Home's needed operational budget and the other comes through the products of the farm, earnings from a limited endowment, special gifts from friends and interested persons.

The reference to money in the preceding paragraph was to the Operating Budget. The capital outlay has been met by the generosity of friends through special gifts or remembrances in their Wills. Two new cottages have just been completed. They will both be dedicated to the memory of persons who have left money for this purpose. Thus, in life and death, the Lord guides and His work is carried on in the hearts and lives of the children at Barium Springs.

You ask the question—Can I visit the Home? The answer is Yes. Every week there are visitors who come to the campus. It is a pleasure for the whole Barium Family to have visitors come to see us and to have a meal in the dining-room, go through the cottages, and worship in the church with the boys and girls.

What about institutional work and its place in the total picture of Child Caring? Today it is commonly agreed that there is a three-fold work in Child Care. Children are provided for through the means of adoption, by means of foster homes, and by means of institutional care. The Federal and State government, following in the footsteps of the Church, have turned to the care of children through its Department of Public Welfare. But the State, the Fraternal organizations, and the Churches all together have not yet met the needs of children, and there are hundreds of children still who are standing in need of that which these three agencies have to offer. In North Carolina there is a fine cooperative effort on the part of the denominational, fraternal, and state agencies in rendering services to the children of this area.

A note came to the business office of the Home saying, "I have just been watching my little grandchild enjoy a new red wagon. I am enclosing a check in order that some child at Barium Springs can have the same pleasure." That is the whole story. Men and women who love Jesus Christ and minister to Him through the little ones of this Home are affording opportunity for work and play and worship. It is through such gifts, large and small, that the work of Barium Springs is carried on.

The Memorial Educational Fund provides for college and training after Barium Springs. These boys and girls represent the 20 young people from the Home who are either in college or special training this year.

THE SYNOD REQUESTS

and

BARIUM SPRINGS NEEDS

YOUR

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

How Much Will You Give?